REMARKS

Applicants cancel claims 6 and 18. Claims 2-3, 5, 14-15, and 17 have previously been canceled. Claims 1, 4, 7-13, 16, and 19-24 remain pending in the application. Applicants amend claims 1 and 13 for further clarification, and refer to page 23, line 6 to page 25, line 4 of the specification for exemplary embodiments of and support for the claimed invention. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 4, 6-13, 16, and 18-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0143960 to Goren et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,095,740 to Jagannath et al. Applicants cancel claims 6 and 18, and amend claims 1 and 13 in a good faith effort to further clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited references. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In rejecting claims 6 and 18, the Examiner acknowledged that Goren et al. fail to disclose the claimed protection information table features, and relied upon col. 1, lines 55-67 of Jagannath et al. as alleged disclosure of such features. Page 11, line 13 to page 12, line 13 of the Office Action.

The cited portion of Jagannath et al.—col. 1, lines 55-67 thereof—only includes, however, description of using multiple routing tables, each separate routing table being maintained for each virtual private network. And the Examiner appeared to erroneously rely upon the concept of keeping address information private as alleged disclosure of a protected channel, as claimed. Applicants refer the Examiner to Fig. 13 and its corresponding description—including page 24, lines 3-12—in the specification for an exemplary embodiment of the claimed protected channel features. Thus, Goren et al. and Jagannath et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, clearly fail to disclose or suggest the claimed protection information table features with respect to preferentially selecting ones of channels

that are not protected in order to avoid double protection by a protection path when establishing a working path.

In other words, even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to combine Goren et al. and Jagannath et al., such a combination would still have, at least, failed to disclose or suggest,

> "[a] network management system for managing a network, comprising:
> a network decomposition unit which decomposes said network into elements, and groups the elements into network components including at least one core network and branch networks;
> a table management unit which manages information on decomposition of the network into said network components by tabulating the information on decomposition;
> wherein said table management unit comprises,
> a branch information table for managing table for managing information on structures of said branch networks,
> a core information table for managing information on at least one structure of said at least one core network,
> a connection information table for managing information on connections between the at least one core network and the branch networks,
> a protection information table for containing information on protection of channels between nodes in the at least one core network, and
> a virtual-network generation unit which generates a virtual network as a new area to be managed, by combining said network components based on information managed by said table management unit;
> said virtual-network generation unit, performing:
> (a1) checking that designated branch networks are connected to the identical core network, where the designated branch networks are branch networks designated by operator,
> (a2) checking that link bandwidths of the designated branch networks do not exceed the value of a link bandwidth of the core network,
> (b1) obtaining branch connection points of the designated branch networks from the branch information table,
> (b2) obtaining nodes having the branch connection points in the core network from the connection information table,
> (b3) obtaining links from the core information table, where the links are physical transmission lines connecting the nodes,

(c) generating subnetwork connections by connecting the branch connection points, the nodes and the links,

(d) removing the subnetwork connections which pass through an identical link from the generated subnetwork connections,

(e) generating the virtual-network by connecting the subnetwork connections which pass through different links,

wherein, when a working path is established between the nodes in the core network and when there are a plurality of channels between the nodes, said virtual-network generation unit generates the subnetwork connections by preferentially selecting ones of the channels that are not protected in order to avoid double protection by a protection path, based on the protection information table," as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that 1, together with claims 4 and 7-12 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Goren et al. and Jagannath et al. separately and in combination, for at least the foregoing reasons. Claim 13 incorporates features that correspond to those of claim 1 cited above, and is, therefore, together with claims 16 and 19-24 dependent therefrom, patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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